

**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS**

71. (amended) A catalyst support having improved attrition resistance, said catalyst support being produced by a method comprising the step of treating calcined  $\gamma$ -alumina having no catalytic material added thereto with an acidic aqueous solution having an acidity level effective for increasing the attrition resistance of said calcined  $\gamma$ -alumina.

--86. The catalyst of claim 68 wherein, after said step of treating said support but before adding any catalytic material thereto, said method further comprises the step of recalcining said  $\gamma$ -alumina support to remove nitrate ions therefrom.

87. The catalyst of claim 67 wherein said  $\gamma$ -alumina support has been produced from spray-dried, synthetic boehmite.

88. The catalyst support of claim 72 wherein, after said step of treating said calcined  $\gamma$ -alumina but before adding any catalytic material thereto, said method further comprises the step of recalcining said calcined  $\gamma$ -alumina to remove nitrate ions therefrom.--